



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WSDA to hold second public hearing on proposal to add Kittitas County to apple maggot quarantine area

OLYMPIA – Washington State Department of Agriculture Director Valoria Loveland announced today the department will hold a second public hearing before a final decision is made on the proposal to add most of Kittitas County to the apple maggot quarantine area.

The second public hearing will be held at 11 a.m. March 30 at the Washington Cattlemen's Association conference room, 1301 Dolarway Rd., Ellensburg. The first public hearing was held Jan. 27.

Loveland stated she did not have enough information at this time upon which to base a decision to approve or disapprove the proposal.

Written testimony may be submitted in advance to Henri Gonzales, state Department of Agriculture by e-mail to hgonzales@agr.wa.gov; by mail at P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560; or FAX (360) 902-2094.

Testimony may also be presented orally or in writing at the hearing.

Loveland will make a decision on the proposal on April 13, 2004. If adopted, the change would become effective Aug. 16, 2004, allowing the industry sufficient time to meet the requirements of the quarantine.

Kittitas County has less than 1 percent of the state's apple orchard acreage, according to the 1997 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture.

If the proposal is adopted, Kittitas County residents would not be able to move backyard fruit out of the county into non-quarantined areas. The proposal would ensure that commercial apples will continue to be shipped outside the county when accompanied by a certificate issued by the state Department of Agriculture. The certificate will either state that no apple maggot flies were trapped within a half-mile of the orchard shipping the fruit, or that flies were caught within a half-mile of the orchard but inspections revealed no apple maggot larvae in the fruit.

Persons with questions on the proposal may contact Mike Klaus, state Department of Agriculture, by phone at (509) 225-2609 or by e-mail at mklaus@agr.wa.gov; or visit the department's Web site at www.agr.wa.gov and click respectively on Plants & Insects, Rule-Making Activity, and Apple Maggot Quarantine.

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